आकस्मिक प्रभारों को बढ़ाने की मांग की है किन्तु दिल्ली प्रशासन द्वारा इस बारे में अभी तक कोई निर्णय नही लिया गया है ।

रसोई गैस सिलेण्डरों के रिसाव का पता लगाने के लिए प्लास्टिक फ्लास्क दिया जाना

1922. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आई० ओ० सी०, बी०पी०सी०, एच० पी० पी० सी० नामक तेल कम्पनियों द्वारा अपने वितरको को उपभोक्ताओं के लाभार्थ छोटे प्लास्टिक फ्लास्क वितरित किये जा रहे है जिससे कि सिलेंडरो और रेगुलेटरों से गैस के रिसाव का पता लगाया जा सके ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि वितरक इन छोटे प्लास्टिक फ्लास्कों को उपभोक्ताओं को नहीं दे रहे हैं बल्कि बेच रहे हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्योरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री रफीक आलम) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) उपर्युक्त (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Destruction of forests due to open cast mining in Makum Coal Fields, Assam

1923. **DR. NAGEN SAIKIA**: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Makum Coal Fields of Assam there are only about 16 million tonnes of coal in the upper ridges of the hills and the remaining about 210 million tonnes are lying below the hills;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the open cast mining method instead of applying underground method is being applied by which the green forests are being destroyed, ecological imbalance in the area is being caused and pollution of water and soil is also being caused; and

(c) whether Government would direct the authorities to stop this open cast method immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) As per assessment made by the Geological Survey of India upto 31.12.87, the coal reserves in the Makum coal-field of Assam are 235.66 million tonnes. Out of these reserves only a small portion can be mined through opencast methods. The remaining part have to be exploited by underground mining methods.

Presently coal mining on a limited scale is being done in the Makum coalfied through a combination of opencast and underground methods. This is necessary to meet the coal demand of the region. To protect and safeguard environment form the impact of opencast mining, some measures have been initiated and some more have been suggested. Plantation activities form a part of these measures.

With the adoption of suitable mining technology the contribution of underground mining to coal production in Makum coal field would increase and the contribution of opencast mining would come down.